

EO-1612

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN DOCKET NO. AB 6 473X

February 3, 2011

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) has expired in this:

(X) Notice of Exemption () Petition for Exemption () Regulated Abandonment

() **NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

(X) **NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

OEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on January 14, 2010, for public review and comment. In the EA, OEA recommended 2 environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

OEA received 1 comment after issuance of the EA. In an email dated January 21, 2010, the NGS stated that approximately 15 geodetic station markers may be located in the area. Therefore, OEA will recommend the following new condition:

Conclusions

The EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, OEA recommends that the following 2 conditions previously recommended in the EA, as well as the additional single new condition recommended in this document, should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority. The combined conditions are:

1. **BNSF Railway Company, prior to commencement of any salvage activities, shall consult with Mr. Jeffrey Towner, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (701.250.4481) regarding potential impacts from salvaging activities to federally listed threatened and endangered species that may occur near the Line. BNSF shall report the results of these consultations in writing to the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis prior to the onset of salvage operations.**
2. **BNSF Railway Company, prior to commencement of any salvage activities, shall consult with Mr. Daniel Cimarosti, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bismarck Regulatory Office, regarding its requirements and, if applicable, shall comply with the reasonable requirements of the Corps.**
3. **BNSF Railway Company shall consult with the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and notify the NGS at least 90 days prior to beginning salvage activities that will disturb or destroy any geodetic station markers.**

If the above conditions are imposed, OEA believes that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

OEA CONTACT: Troy Brady

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TB' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.